

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 8, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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PV
JC
1327


Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to you out of concern regarding the growing problem of phantom traffic. Phantom traffic is network traffic that does not reveal the necessary information for carriers to properly identify and bill for traffic. We recognize and applaud the inclusion of phantom traffic in the National Broadband Plan and we respectfully ask that as the Commission considers important issues such as intercarrier compensation, the Commission review this important issue.

Communications providers should be able to identify and be properly compensated for the traffic that is carried on their networks. We have heard repeatedly from carriers in our states that phantom traffic results in a significant loss of revenue that in turn places undue stress on the Universal Service Fund and consumers. Without the resolution of this issue, providers may be less able to invest in upgrading and expanding their broadband networks—a key goal of the National Broadband Plan.

Though there are many important and pressing issues before the Federal Communications Commission, we believe the problem of phantom traffic can and should be solved. We encourage the Commission to work quickly to modernize and clarify signaling rules, and look forward to your positive response to our concerns.

Sincerely,



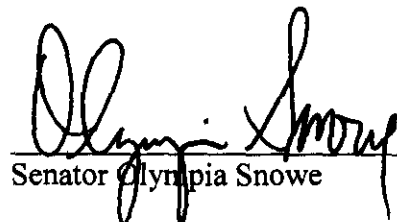
Senator Mark Pryor



Senator Blanche Lincoln

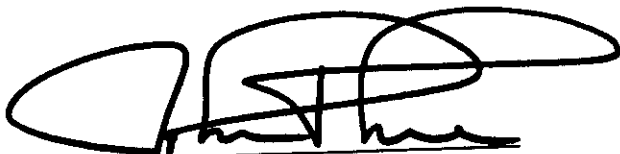


Senator Byron Dorgan



Senator Olympia Snowe

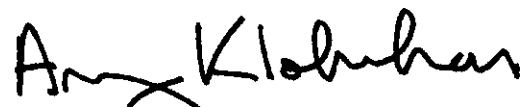
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Senator John Thune



Senator Russ Feingold



Senator Amy Klobuchar



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the phantom traffic issue.

As you note, the National Broadband Plan included recommendations relating to phantom traffic and other arbitrage issues. Specifically, the plan recommended that, as part of its long-term reform of intercarrier compensation, the Commission should adopt interim rules to reduce intercarrier compensation arbitrage, such as rules that would prohibit carriers from eliminating information necessary for a terminating carrier to bill an originating carrier for a call.

Commission staff are actively considering intercarrier compensation and related arbitrage issues, such as phantom traffic, as they work to address the National Broadband Plan's recommendations. We will make your letter part of the record in the Commission's intercarrier compensation proceeding and will forward you a copy of the intercarrier compensation item when it is released.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feingold:

Thank you for your letter regarding the phantom traffic issue.

As you note, the National Broadband Plan included recommendations relating to phantom traffic and other arbitrage issues. Specifically, the plan recommended that, as part of its long-term reform of intercarrier compensation, the Commission should adopt interim rules to reduce intercarrier compensation arbitrage, such as rules that would prohibit carriers from eliminating information necessary for a terminating carrier to bill an originating carrier for a call.

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter regarding the phantom traffic issue.

As you note, the National Broadband Plan included recommendations relating to phantom traffic and other arbitrage issues. Specifically, the plan recommended that, as part of its long-term reform of intercarrier compensation, the Commission should adopt interim rules to reduce intercarrier compensation arbitrage, such as rules that would prohibit carriers from eliminating information necessary for a terminating carrier to bill an originating carrier for a call.

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Blanche Lambert Lincoln
United States Senate
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lincoln:

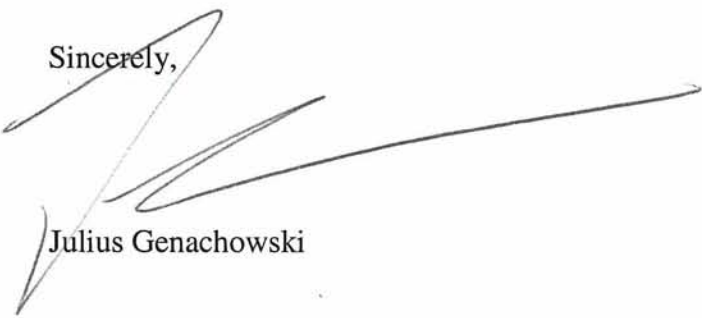
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Julius Genachowski



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WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Mark Pryor
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pryor:

Thank you for your letter regarding the phantom traffic issue.

As you note, the National Broadband Plan included recommendations relating to phantom traffic and other arbitrage issues. Specifically, the plan recommended that, as part of its long-term reform of intercarrier compensation, the Commission should adopt interim rules to reduce intercarrier compensation arbitrage, such as rules that would prohibit carriers from eliminating information necessary for a terminating carrier to bill an originating carrier for a call.

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your letter regarding the phantom traffic issue.

As you note, the National Broadband Plan included recommendations relating to phantom traffic and other arbitrage issues. Specifically, the plan recommended that, as part of its long-term reform of intercarrier compensation, the Commission should adopt interim rules to reduce intercarrier compensation arbitrage, such as rules that would prohibit carriers from eliminating information necessary for a terminating carrier to bill an originating carrier for a call.

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OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2010

The Honorable John R. Thune
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

Thank you for your letter regarding the phantom traffic issue.

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Julius Genachowski